CLAIMS

1.   A file name generation apparatus which generates a file name, said apparatus comprising:

5   an identifier generation unit operable to generate a globally unique identifier; and

a file name generation unit operable to generate a file name which includes the globally unique identifier generated by said identifier generation unit.

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2.   The file name generation apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the globally unique identifier includes:

information for identifying an chronological order in which a file is created; and information for identifying a hardware which

15 creates the file.

3.   The file name generation apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the globally unique identifier includes:

one of a date and a time when the file is created, and a serial

20 number representing an chronological order in which the file is created; and one of a serial number of said file name generation apparatus, and a serial number of a storage medium in which the file is stored.

25 4.   The file name generation apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising

a calculation unit operable to calculate a hash value from the globally unique identifier generated by said identifier generation unit,

30   wherein said file name generation unit is operable to generate a file name which includes the hash value calculated by said calculation unit.

5.   The file name generation apparatus according to Claim 4,
       wherein the hash value is represented by an alpha-numeric
character in base-N notation, where N is larger than 10.

6.   The file name generation apparatus according to Claim 4,
       wherein the file name which includes the hash value is
represented by a main file name of eight or less characters and an
extension of three or less characters.

7.   The file name generation apparatus according to Claim 1,
further comprising
       a storage unit operable to store multimedia data into a
storage medium, under the file name which is generated by said file
name generation unit.

8.   A method for generating a file name, said method comprising:
       generating a globally unique identifier; and
       generating a file name which includes the globally unique
identifier generated in said generating of the globally unique
identifier.

9.   A program for generating a file name, said program for
causing a computer to execute:
       generating a globally unique identifier; and
       generating a file name which includes the globally unique
identifier generated in said generating of the globally unique
identifier.